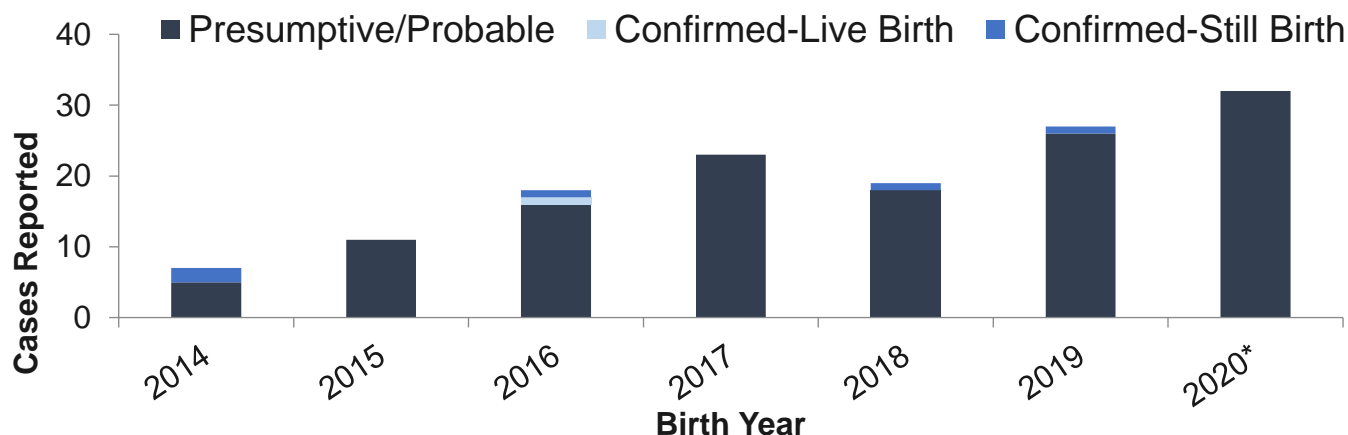




Congenital Syphilis in North Carolina, 2020

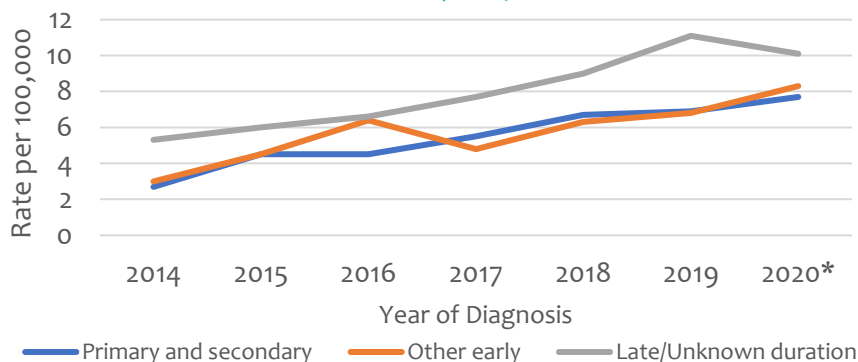


Congenital syphilis cases increased in 2020



Syphilis continues to increase in women 14-44

Syphilis Rates among Women aged 14-44 by Syphilis Stage
North Carolina, 2014-2020*

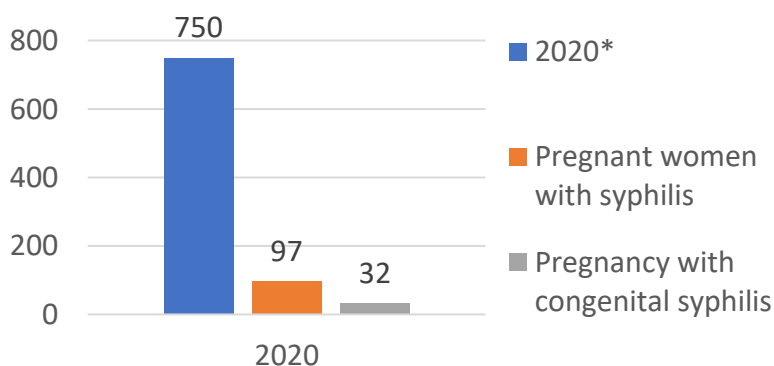


In 2020, 341 women were diagnosed with primary, secondary, or other early syphilis, and 215 were diagnosed with late/unknown duration syphilis.

Most women with syphilis during pregnancy are treated effectively

Most congenital syphilis is prevented

Women with Syphilis of Any Stage, NC 2020*



*2020 data is preliminary and subject to change.

Data Source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) (data as of April 3, 2021).

Contact Us:
North Carolina DHHS
Communicable Disease Branch
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Prepared by the HIV/STD/Hepatitis Surveillance Unit
Created on 04/19/2021



Congenital Syphilis in North Carolina, 2020



What Clinicians can do

Syphilis testing during pregnancy is required for ALL women in NC

- Perform a thorough sexual health and behavioral risk assessment at every prenatal visit.
- Testing for syphilis is required at the first prenatal visit, between 28-30 weeks gestation, and at delivery.
- Treat all sexual partners of pregnant women diagnosed with syphilis to prevent re-infection.

How does a baby end up with congenital syphilis?

Findings from a review of NC congenital syphilis cases, 2016-2020



No or late entry into prenatal care

Prenatal care but incomplete syphilis testing during pregnancy

Exposed newborn is not appropriately evaluated or treated at birth

How to prevent?

- Identify women early in pregnancy and link to prenatal care.
- **Test all women at delivery!**
This is the best safety net to identify infection among women and infants who have had no or little prenatal care.
- Ensure **ALL** required testing is performed during pregnancy as described above and treat per CDC guidelines.
- Ensure babies born to women who test positive for syphilis are appropriately evaluated and treated for exposure or infection, per CDC guidelines.

What Moms can do

You deserve to have a healthy pregnancy and infant. Make sure that your doctor is testing you through out your pregnancy for STIs.